

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0861

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, EAID, EAGR, BF, US
SUBJ: HATCHET BAY

REF: NASSAU 563

1. ON MONDAY, APRIL 17, I PAID A CALL ON MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ADDERLEY. THE MINISTER VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD JUST COME BACK FROM HATCHET BAY WHERE HE GOES ON A WEEKLY OR -- OCCASIONALLY -- TWICE WEEKLY BASIS. HE COMMENTED THAT HE SAW SOME OF THE DOUBLE-SIZE EGGS, SIMILAR TO THE ONES WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ME ON MY VISIT. I ASKED HOW HATCHET BAY WAS DOING, AND HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF IMPROVEMENT IN HATCHET BAY AND THAT HE WAS SATISFIED IT COULD BE MADE ECONOMICALLY SOUND. HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE, BOTH IN REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES AS WELL AS IN PERSONNEL REPLACEMENT AND ADDITIONS. THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT THE LAYERS WERE PRODUCING CONSIDERABLY MORE AND THAT THEY HAD ELIMINATED THE MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH WAS CAUSING AN EXCESSIVE MORTALITY RATE AMONGST THE CHICKENS.

2. WHILE ON HATCHET BAY, THE MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING THE USG COULD DO FOR THEM IF WE WOULD. HE INDICATED THAT HE KNEW THAT ON PAST OCCASIONS OUR GOVERNMENT HAD MADE AVAILABLE ROAD-SCRAPING AND-IMPROVEMENT MACHINERY AT ANDROS
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IN ORDER TO REPAIR PUBLIC ROADS THERE. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD APPROXIMATELY A MILE OF ROADS WITHIN THE HATCHET BAY DEVELOPMENT THAT WERE IN HORRIBLE CONDITION (FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION, I CAN SAY THAT THEY ARE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE) AND THAT THEY SIMPLY HAD TO REPAIR THE ROADS OR WHATEVER EQUIPMENT THEY HAD WAS GOING TO BE RUINED. HE WANTED TO KNOW IF WE COULD POSSIBLY ARRANGE FOR THE ROAD-BUILDING EQUIPMENT WHICH IS CURRENTLY

AT GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR, AT OUR BASE, TO SCRAPE AND RESURFACE THESE ROADS. THE MINISTER COMMENTED THAT HE KNEW THIS HAD BEEN DONE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS BY FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MR. CLARENCE BAIN AT ANDROS ISLAND, WHO ARRANGED IT WITH THE BASE COMMANDER THERE.

3. THE MINISTER SAID HE WAS GOING TO WRITE ME ABOUT IT IN GREATER DETAIL, GIVING ME MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO JUST HOW MUCH SURFACE IS INVOLVED. UPON RECEIPT OF THAT LETTER, EMBASSY WILL FORWARD TO THE DEPARTMENT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH ARE INITIALLY AFFIRMATIVE. WE FEEL THAT THIS MIGHT OFFER US THE CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL BREAK-THROUGH WITH ADDERLEY ON A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO HIM. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING TIMING AND PAST AND PRESENT REQUESTS BY OTHER OFFICIALS REPRESENTING DISTRICTS IN WHICH FACILITIES ARE LOCATED WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE WEIGHED AND CONSIDERED.
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